

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BLANTY 00683 280901Z

13

ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /031 W

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P R 280715Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7076

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L BLANTYRE 683

EXDIS

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, RH

SUBJ: RHODESIA: PROF. JOHN HUTCHINSON

REF: BLANTYRE 672

1. CONTRARY INFO GIVEN EMBASSY PRIOR DESPATCH REFTEL, HUTCHINSON DID NOT DEPART BLANTYRE MAY 24. HE INSTEAD SPENT DAY WITH BRITISH HIGH COMMISSION, FINALLY DEPARTING FOR SALISBURY MAY 25. CROSS-CHECK WITH HIGH COMMISSION INDICATES HUTCHINSON GAVE THEM ESSENTIALLY SAME STORY REPORTED REFTEL. HUTCHINSON ALSO LEFT LETTER FOR BRITISH PM WILSON, APPARENTLY SIMILAR IN TONE TO ONE HE ADDRESSED TO SECRETARY KISSINGER. HIGH COMMISSION HAS TRANSMITTED THIS LETTER TO LONDON.

2. HUTCHINSON'S ROLE AND MOTIVATIONS IN CURRENT RHODESIA EVENTS ARE PUZZLING TO US. FROM ONE STANDPOINT, HE HAS USEFUL ACCESS AND APPEARS TO BE PLAYING HELPFUL ROLE IN ASSISTING ANC WITH SETTLEMENT. ON OTHER HAND HE IS QUICK TO PUBLICIZE WHAT HE HIMSELF ADMITS ARE SENSITIVE ASPECTS OF SETTLEMENT
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PAGE 02 BLANTY 00683 280901Z

(AND HIS ROLE IN IT) IN BRITISH AND RHODESIAN PRESS. FROM

SINGLE CONTACT TO DATE WE FOUND IT DIFFICULT TO DETERMINE
WHETHER HE CONSIDERS HIMSELF TO BE ACTING AS NEGOTIATOR OR
JOURNALIST. WE WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT'S FURTHER ASSESSMENT
OF HUTCHINSON'S CHARACTER, BACKGROUND AND POSITION AND ANY
SUGGESTIONS FOR HANDLING HIM SHOULD FUTURE CONTACTS OCCUR.
FARBER

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NNN

Message Attributes

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